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THE COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Wednesday, *the* *9th of Kumbham 1104.* / *20th of February 1929.*

The House met at Half-past Eleven of the Clock with the President in the Chair. Mr. P. C. Chanchan, Dr. A. G. Menon and Mr. K. T. Mathew were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Illicit transport of timber.

286. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

1. was there a case of illicit transport of one or two teak logs without chappa or passes, detected by the Parakkadavu Tanadar in 1101 and what was the report of the Divisional Forest Officer thereon;

2. were not these logs brought down by the Plantation Ranger Mr. C. Govinda Menon from Palappalli plantations on the personal sanction of the Conservator;

3. did the Divisional Forest Officer report the fact to the Conservator; the whole file of the Divisional Forest Officer regarding this matter may be placed on the Table of this House;

4. how was the matter finally disposed of by the Conservator;

5. were not the logs taken by the Ranger and passes issued subsequently by the Divisional Forest Officer on the personal orders of the Conservator to drop the matter;

6. at the time when the logs were brought down, was not the house construction of the Ranger Mr. C. Govinda Menon going on at Koodapuzha;

7. on the receipt of the information of the seizure of the above said logs of teak, did not the Forest Guard under the Plantation Ranger produce passes issued by Ranger Mr. C. Govinda Menon himself before the Southern Divisional Forest Officer while the latter was camping in Palappalli the next day and did not these passes bear the date on which the logs were seized;

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8. has not the Conservator till now stated in the open House that there was no such case reported?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—1. There was no such case.

2 to 8. In view of the reply to (1) above no answer is called for.

287. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

1. whether there was a case of illicit transport of two teak logs without chappa or passes, detected by the Parakkadavu Tanadar in 1101 and what was the report of the Divisional Forest Officer thereon;

2. who brought down these logs from the Palappalli plantations;

3. what was the explanation of the Plantation Ranger in this matter;

4. was it alleged that personal sanction of the Conservator of Forests was obtained for the same and had the Conservator of Forests given the same;

5. how was the matter finally disposed of by the Conservator of Forests;

6. were not the logs taken by the Ranger and passes subsequently issued to him;

7. was Ranger Mr. C. Govinda Menon constructing his house at Koodapuzha at the time the logs were brought down;

8. on the receipt of the information of the seizure of the timber, did the Forest Guard under the Plantation Ranger produce the passes before the Southern Divisional Forest Officer in Palappalli camp, the next day, bearing the date on which the logs were seized;

9. will the Government be pleased to place the whole file regarding this matter on the Table of the House?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—1. The Member is referred to answer to part (1) of question No. 286.

2 to 9. In view of the answer to (1) above, no reply is necessary.

288. Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

1. was not there a case of illicit transport of 2 teak logs without chappa or passes detected by the Parakkadavu Tanadar in 1101 and a report submitted by the Divisional Forest Officer in connection with the same to the Conservator of Forests after enquiry;

2. did the enquiry disclose the name of any Forest Officer as having been implicated in the matter, and if so, who is that officer;

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